

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

January 27, 2015

**Providing Justification for Conversion Technology Investment
Relates to Agenda Item 16**

Since 2010, the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Works has pursued various strategies to increase the utilization of non-combustion conversion technologies, which are aimed at reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfills, and are considered sustainable waste management solutions.

These facilities have proven to be very difficult to develop locally. Various legislative and regulatory frameworks have made these facilities complicated to permit and operate in California. The County has promoted alternative methods of waste disposal, and provided technical assistance to project developers to further this effort. However, there are no commercial-scale facilities yet operational within the County.

Progress was made in 2014 with the passage of County-sponsored Senate Bill 498, which helps clear the pathway to allow cleaner and more efficient technologies to be used to make low-carbon fuels as well as renewable energy from certain types of organic waste. However, significant work still needs to be done to ensure these technologies can be scalable to meet the County's goals. The Board of Supervisors (Board) recently approved a roadmap for a sustainable waste management future, which entails diverting 80 percent of solid waste from landfills by 2025.

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
JANUARY 27, 2015
PAGE 2

In 2014, Governor Brown also signed into law AB 1826, which requires businesses and government entities which generate organic waste to recycle. This bill also requires local jurisdictions to develop an organics management plan by December 31, 2015. This will require the waste industry to develop a number of conversion technology facilities to process organic material and the County to facilitate the permitting and development of these facilities.

Deployment of conversion technologies may help to divert a substantial amount of this waste stream. In order to realize this goal, the County must identify the specific barriers to rapidly and cost-effectively developing commercial-scale projects within the County. The Board should review data on the cost-effectiveness of this strategy and have a realistic sense of the timeframe and viability of scaling up this investment to meet the County's waste management needs.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Director of the Department of Public Works to provide semi-annual reports in writing that include clear benchmarks for measuring the actual progress being made towards establishing viable conversion technology projects (including amount of waste to be diverted, financial viability, project status, and significant impediments) that will allow the Board of Supervisors to meaningfully assess the efficacy of conversion technologies in meeting the County of Los Angeles' goal of a sustainable waste management future.

###

(KK)